

The Negaunee Historical Society

303 East Main Street, P.O. Box 221,
Negaunee, MI 49866 (906-475-4614)

DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

FROM THE PRESIDENT, Virginia Paulson



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Negaunee Historical Society! This past year brought a finish to our porch project and for that we are grateful. Work continues in the building with the basement cleaning and display changes and fresh paint and the carriage house getting cleaned up. A new year is about to begin. When I get my new calendar, I will fill in the dates that I already know – like birthdays, anniversaries, meeting dates that have already been set and even some doctor appointments. I look at the empty squares and wonder “what will I be doing on those days”. Then I look at my old calendar and I see those squares get filled in. It gives me a good feeling to look back and see that I have put my time to good use. If any of you are looking to fill any squares on your calendars, give us a call.

VIRGINIA PAULSON

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS



Waino Liuha – 25DEC2012
William Hawke Jr – 27DEC2012
Betty Leverton – 17MAR2013
Edwin Hakala – 28MAR2013
Philip Kirkwood Jr – 6SEP2013
Mae Rogers – 22NOV2013

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME

(Since our last newsletter)

Kathleen Giddings – monetary gift
Mary Trolle- miscellaneous pictures
Cliffs Natural Resources – monetary gift
Brian Sheridan, Atty – monetary gift for porch repair
John Larson Architect – monetary gift for porch repair
Darin Rinehart – creating and loading our new website
Dave Danielson – antique organ for museum living room
Stonehouse Windows & Door – monetary gift for porch repair
Miles Parkkonen – designing new membership cards
Lee & Linda Warner- large U.S. Flag, photos, NHS items, misc items
J Craig and Barbara Kirkpatrick – monetary gift for cemetery research
Nolan Duquette- leather football helmet, military canteens, pictures, etc
Phillip & April Barry- Winter&Suess ledgers and stamped envelopes (1910)
Clarence “Bea” Parolini – picking up 3 trailer loads of disposable wood products
Alyce Davis – Collins Log Cabin gift in memory of Dorothy & William C Gutzman
Dave Dompierre Jr – for use of his truck and for hauling 1800 lbs iron to junk yard

(Note: If your name was omitted from this list, please notify the museum so we can acknowledge your kindness)

51ST STATE NAMED “SUPERIOR” ISSUE BEATEN

Excerpt from “Mining Journal – April 25, 1980

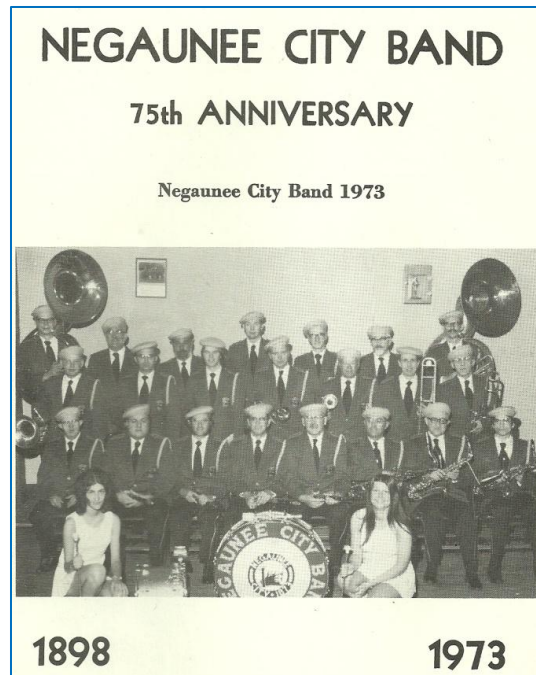
Imagine telling others that you live in Negaunee, Superior!

As it often has, the issue of statehood for the Upper Peninsula reared its head several times during the past quarter century and even reached the ballot stage in a couple of cities, including Marquette. State Representative, Dominic Jacobetti, went so far as to sponsor legislation proposing secession from the state of Michigan. The Negaunee Democrat said he was “sick and tired of Governor Milliken and his cheat for a budget director, Jerry Miller”. That, he said, “was the reason for the bill” calling for separation. The proposal to make the U.P. a 51st state was rejected by Marquette voters, 1,842 to 770 in November 1975. Iron Mountain voters turned down the proposal by about the same margin.



CITY BAND 115 YEARS OLD

For the past 115 years, the Negaunee City Band, one of the oldest organizations of its kind in the Upper Peninsula, has been providing music which has been enjoyed by thousands of residents from Negaunee and the surrounding area. Formed in 1898, the City Band was an outgrowth of a brass band formed in 1890 by the English Oak Lodge consisting of Cornish residents who played a brass instrument and under the direction of John Stecher. Stecher was urged to include other instruments and thus the beginning of the City Band in 1898. The Negaunee Italian Band joined in 1916 and the band's membership increased immensely. Joseph "Pops" Violetta had taken over the reigns as the Director where he led the band for the next 30 years prior to his death in 1946. It was under his direction and largely due to his perseverance and hard work that the City Band earned its greatest fame.



ANNUAL MEETING SELECTS 2014 GOVERNING BOARD

The Historical Society held its 30th annual meeting on Tuesday, December 3rd in the Fellowship Hall at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Paul Jandron, Laura Jandron, Miles Parkkonen and Linda Perucco were elected to three-year terms as trustees. After the annual meeting, the governing board elected its officers for the coming year and the below officers accepted their appointments.

Virginia Paulson.....President
Donna Gravedoni-Bjork.....Secretary

Suzanne Morris..... Vice-President
Theresa Rinehart.....Treasurer

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSEUM CLEANUP – INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

A total of 29 large bags of leaves and grass clippings were hauled from the museum yard before the snow fell. Another 14 bags of trash from the basement cleaning was hauled away for the garbage pickup. Another three trailer loads of scrap wood was cleaned from the carriage house, basement and the museum yard. Finally, two truck-loads of scrap iron were hauled away for museum income. Thank you to Dave Dompierre Sr for coordinating and helping on all of these clean-up projects.

DR. ARTHUR TUURI - THE MINER'S SON
Excerpts from "The Flint Journal" September 15, 1973

"We believe in taking care of things here"

Dr. Arthur Tuuri was proud of every nook and cranny of the Mott Children's Health Center. He was even proud of the boiler room, which was not surprising. The pipes there were painted bright reds and blues and the big elbow joints were silver. The floor was buffed to a high gloss. He supervised the designing of the Mott Building down to the last examining room and towel rack. And he hired most of those smiling people. "We believe in taking care of things here" was a quote from Doctor Arthur Tuuri. The institution and the man have become synonymous. Tuuri is the center and the center is Tuuri. The doctor was honored for his 25 years as the director of the center 40 years ago.



Doctor Arthur Tuuri, one of thirteen children in the family of John Sr and Mary Tuuri, was an honor graduate of the University of Michigan-School of Medicine and who left a promising career in medical research and teaching to become the director of the Center at the age of 28. When Tuuri came to the center, it was devoted primarily to diagnose sick children and treatment was minimal. However, under Dr. Tuuri's guidance, services expanded and he began more and more to see the need for diagnosing and treating the "complete child." In describing Dr. Tuuri, most people who knew him responded with one word: "Humble". It was often followed by the word "persistent". Those who knew the doctor when he was growing up in the mining town of Negaunee attributed his qualities in part to the cultural influence of the Upper Peninsula Finnish community. His father was a Finnish immigrant who worked in the iron mines to support his wife and family of 13. Beginning high school during the depression, Dr. Tuuri was able to enroll at Kent State University in Ohio with financial assistance from an older sister and some Negaunee residents. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in education in 1942 and later graduated from medical school with honors in 1945.

BUCKBOARD DONATED TO MUSEUM

A picture of the latest addition to our museum is a Buckboard almost 100 years old. Society member, Dennis Stanaway (L), made the generous gift and is pictured here with board member, Dave Dompierre Sr.



MARTELL BUILDING OLDEST NEGAUNEE STRUCTURE

Excerpts from an anonymous typewritten letter dated May 20, 1921



Going way back in Negaunee's historical beginning, I found some interesting facts on the original building that was located on the NW corner of Iron Street and Pioneer Avenue and kitty corner from the famous Breitung Hotel. No, it was not the Bernard Building as most of us knew it, but it was called the Martell property, and it covered a "triangular lot" from Iron to

Jackson Street as shown in the middle of the above picture. The building's origin began on the eastern end of Teal Lake as a log house and originally was the home of Antoine Giroux. Giroux and Medard Gauthier constructed open charcoal pits on land at Teal Lake. A lull in the charcoal industry resulted in their movements into town in 1859 and property next to each other. Both Giroux and Gauthier dismantled their log homes, carted the logs to town and proceeded to reconstruct the buildings. In 1865, the demand for iron was brisk and regular. However, there was neither a street nor regularly laid out village until that spring, when J. P. Pendill and the Pioneer Company caused two separate plats to be made. This was the first move toward the prosperity of the city. Houses were moved, streets straightened and a round of improvements inaugurated. Charles Martell, a native of Canada, decided to locate in Negaunee at that time and purchased the Giroux property and added a second story to the home. The adjacent lot, owned by Gauthier was later used for Phileas Bernard's Barber Shop. Martell's home was purchased by the city to widen Pioneer Avenue as related in the January 7, 1921 edition of the "Iron Herald". The demolition of the Martell structures brought to an end the oldest home built in Negaunee. Pioneer Avenue became wider with the Bernard Building now becoming the corner lot. It had offices and apartments upstairs and the barbershop was located next door. Some of the residents residing in the

WILL BUY MARTELL LOT

**CITY TO REMOVE BUILDINGS AND
WIDEN PIONEER AVE.**

**Municipality Has Option to Buy at
\$10,000—Will Make Great
Improvement**



apartments included Norman Stanaway Sr, Francis Roseveare, Genevieve Baldini, Jack Nease, Jack Perala, Josephine Paris, Martha Stott, Dennis Paulson, and Dave Rice as well as offices for Dr. Whale, DDS, Simonette, Jim's Pizza, Teen Tap, State of Michigan License Bureau, Oasis Spas, Custom Drywall, Gene DeGabriele's Barber Shop, Paul Remillard's Barber Shop. The upstairs apartments of the building became vacant as shown in the 1985 Polk Directory. The building is now owned by Jeff Plummer of Negaunee.

WINTER IN THE 60'S IRON STREET



I came across this picture of the city snowplow removing snow away from Iron Street. This scene is across from the old Liberty Theatre on the corner of Tobin Street and Iron Street but now fenced off at Old Town Park. The 1965 Polk Directory indicates Don's Corner (500), Berlyne Miller (502), Gayle's Hollywood Beauty Shop (504), Toivo Alongo

(506), Collins' Wholesale (508), Collins' Cash Market (510), Hugo Balzarini (512), K of C's Hall (514), Margaret Berry (516), Norman Oates (516 ½), LaFreniere's Furniture (522), William Williams (534), Dominic Francisco (538), Joseph Violetta and Bill Ennett (542), Violetta's Music Store (548) and the Viga Bowling Alley (552) which was at the corner of Cyr Street. At the end was Ghiardi's Store and then the infamous Jackson Bowl where we played baseball, ice skated and played hockey as youngsters.

VIGA BOWLING ALLEY BURNS TO THE GROUND

Excerpts from "Iron Herald August 25, 1966

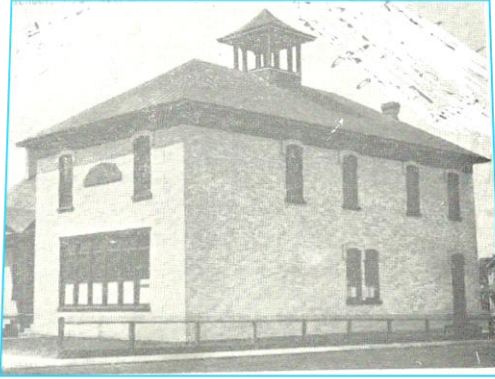
Fire of undetermined origin destroyed one of Negaunee's old business district landmarks. Constructed more than 150 years ago, the building originally housed Negaunee's first hotel. It was known as the King's Inn and was built close to the Jackson Pit where iron ore was first mined. The building was purchased by Joseph "Pops" Violetta in 1929 and who opened four bowling lanes in 1931. The basement was known as the Viga



Pro Shop where bowling pins were refinished for most of the alleys in Upper Michigan. Bowling balls were also fitted and drilled by Vic Violetta who was part owner with his brother-in-law, Tom Richards. During the 1950's, they modernized the interior of the first floor, installed two additional bowling lanes and automatic pin spotting equipment. The buildings on each side of the bowling alley, Violetta's Music Store and Warner Heating and Plumbing were saved from the blaze. It was believed the fire damage would run well over \$100,000.00.

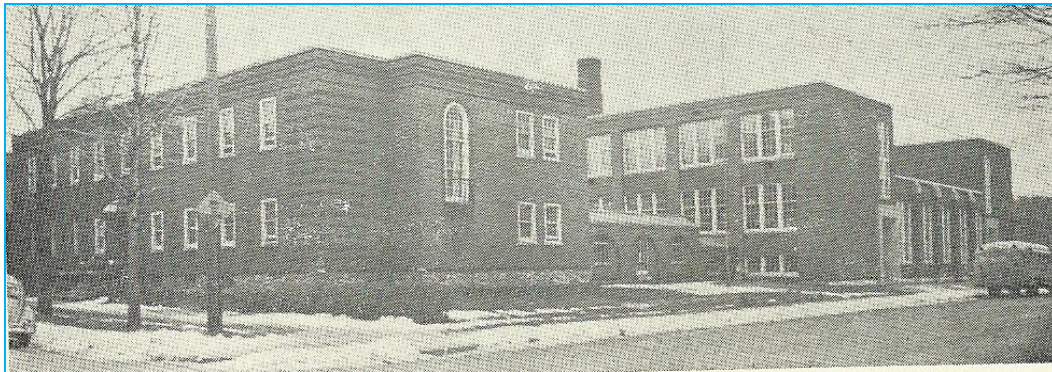
HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S CONVENT

(Note: The parish owned property east of the present warehouse where the catholic cemetery was located prior to 1910. Iron ore was discovered on the property and an arrangement was made with the owners of the Maas Mine with the royalties being used for parish buildings.)



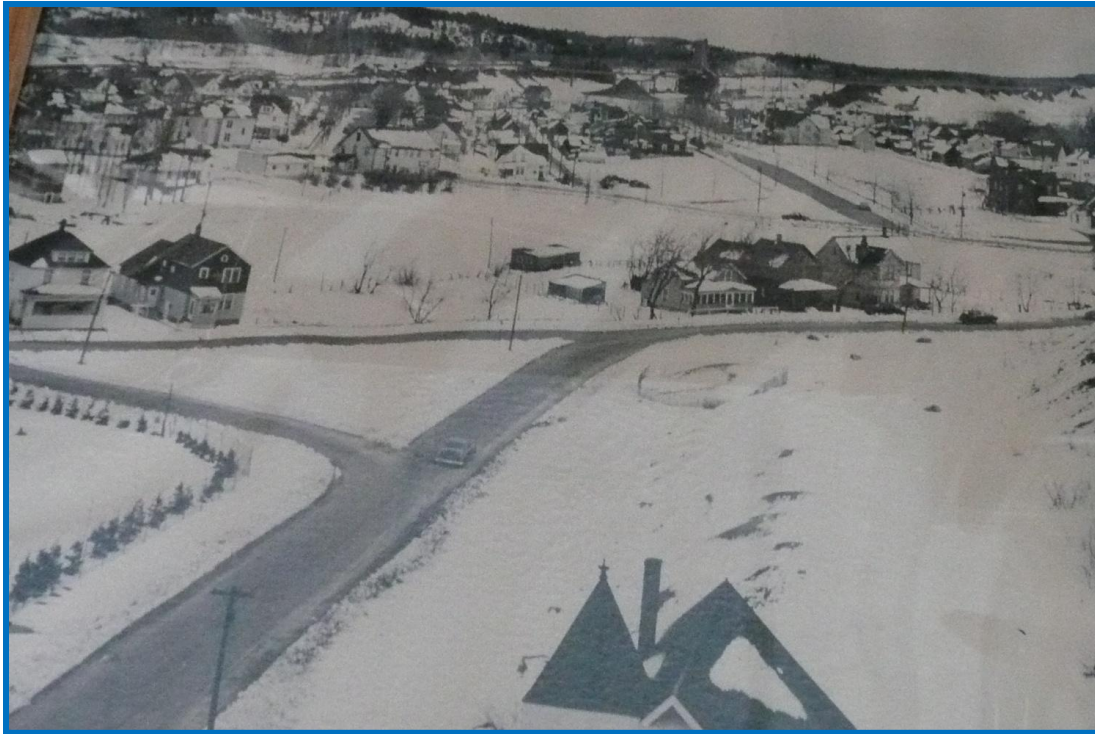
Under the direction of Father Eis, St. Paul's first parish school was built in 1882. A new rectory was also constructed and the old rectory was converted into a convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. At a cost of \$5,000.00, the school was a 30 x 60 brick building, two stories high and contained four classrooms. The church's congregation numbered 350 families with about 500 school aged children.

A disastrous fire destroyed the church and rectory on April 25, 1919. For the next two years, Mass was offered in the Adelphi Roller Rink and Negaunee Fire Hall. The dedication of the present church took place January 30, 1921. Eleven years later in 1932, the school and convent were torn down and a new grade school and convent were built at a cost of \$150,000. The teaching Sisters moved into the convent on October 22, 1932 where they lived and taught school for the next 35 years but gradually they all began to leave the area.



In 1967, the high school portion had to be discontinued due to shortage of teaching nuns. Children were still able to get educated up to the eighth grade until 1975 when the school closed due to the lack of teaching nuns. Until 1980 when the convent was closed, a few of the Sisters were still living there while coordinating the C.C.D. classes and visiting the sick. Finally, in 1987, with a Parish Council proposal and strong support from Father Charles Oliver, the building was sold. Twenty five years later, the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet has become just a memory.

A PEEK FROM THE BLUFF – 1952



This photograph is taken from Teal Lake Bluff (where the water tower sits) looking northeast with the Maas Mine in the far background. You are looking at East Arch Street meeting up with Mitchell Avenue. Calvary Church is in foreground with the Legion Diamond (now LaCombe Field) situated in back of the residences of Ted Peterson (651), Donald Robare (649) and Donald Lampi (637) and to the right of Koski Store (now Nylander Auto Parts). The playgrounds and football field are to the left of the bottom corner and the old ice rink was located behind the two houses on the left (Choquette/Gronseth (683) and (Winter/Patierno (697)).

2014 MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

Our active membership is now at 271. Take time to renew your 2014 membership now and ask a friend to join and support the Historical Society. Adults are only \$10.00 and your donation can be mailed to P.O. Box 221, Negaunee, MI 49866.

Lifetime - \$100.00

Individual - \$10.00

Student - \$5.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip: _____

Note: If you want your newsletter via e-mail please indicate _____